Amendments to the Specification:

At page 1, lines 5-11, please amend the paragraph in the section entitled "Related Applications" as follows:

Continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 09/399,913, filed September 21, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,361,971, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 09/350,874, filed July 9, 1999, now abandoned, and U.S. Application No. 09/350,614, filed July 9, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,689,581, both of which are continuations-in-part of U.S. Application No. 09/298,731, filed April 23, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,369,197, claiming benefit under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 119(e) of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/110,033, filed Nov. 25, 1998, U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/109,333, filed Nov. 20, 1998, and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/110,277, filed Nov. 30, 1998. The entire contents of each of the above-referenced patents and patent applications are incorporated by reference herein.

~~This application is a continuation in part of United States Application No. 09/350,874, filed July 9, 1999 (now abandoned) which is a continuation in part of United States Application No. 09/298,731 filed April 23, 1999 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,369,197) which claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 119(e) to United States Application Nos. 60/109,333, filed November 20, 1998, 60/110,033, filed on November 25, 1998 and 60/110,277, filed on November 30, 1998.~~

~~This application is also a continuation in part of United States Application No. 09/350,614 filed July 9, 1999 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,689,501) which is a divisional of 09/298,731 filed April 23, 1999 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,369,197), which claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 119(e) to United States Application Nos. 60/109,333, filed November 20, 1998, 60/110,033, filed on November 25, 1998 and 60/110,277, filed on November 30, 1998.~~

At page 5, lines 1-3, amend the description of Figure 2 as follows:

Figure 2 depicts the cDNA sequence and predicted amino acid sequence of rat 1v. The nucleotide sequence corresponds to nucleic acids 1 to 1856 of SEQ ID NO:3 (Fig. 2A). The amino acid sequence corresponds to amino acids 1 to 245 of SEQ ID NO:4 (Fig. 2B).

At page 5, lines 16-18, amend the description of Figure 7 as follows:

Figure 7 depicts the cDNA sequence and predicted amino acid sequence of human 9q1. The nucleotide sequence corresponds to nucleic acids 1 to 2009 of SEQ ID NO:13 (Fig. 7A). The amino acid sequence corresponds to amino acids 1 to 270 of SEQ ID NO:14 (Fig. 7B).

At page 5, lines 25-27, amend the description of Figure 10 as follows:

Figure 10 depicts the cDNA sequence and predicted amino acid sequence of human 9qm. The nucleotide sequence corresponds to nucleic acids 1 to 1955 of SEQ ID NO:19 (Fig. 10A). The amino acid sequence corresponds to amino acids 1 to 252 of SEQ ID NO:20 (Fig. 10B).

At page 6, lines 24-26, amend the description of Figure 22 as follows:

Figure 22 depicts the genomic DNA sequence of human 9q. FIG. 22A depicts exon 1 and its flanking intron sequences (SEQ ID NO:46). FIGS. 22B and 22C depict[[s]] exons 2-11 and the flanking intron sequences (SEQ ID NO:47).

At page 7, lines 1-3, amend the description of Figure 27 as follows:

Figure 27 depicts the cDNA sequence and predicted amino acid sequence of human 33b07. The nucleotide sequence corresponds to nucleic acids 1 to 4148 of SEQ ID NO:54 (Fig. 27A). The amino acid sequence corresponds to amino acids 1 to 414 of SEQ ID NO:55 (Fig 27B).